United Nations A/C.3/55/L.54

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
2 November 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Third Committee
Agenda item 114 (b)
Human rights questions: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Mongolia, Mozambique, New Zealand, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Venezuela: draft resolution

Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 32/127 of 16 December 1977 and all its subsequent resolutions concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling also Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/51 of 9 March 1993[1] and its subsequent resolutions in this regard,

Bearing in mind the relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights concerning advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights, including its most recent resolution on that subject, resolution 2000/80 of 26 April 2000,[2]

Bearing in mind also the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[3] which reiterates, inter alia, the need to consider the possibility of establishing regional and subregional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights where they do not already exist,

---

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/1993/23 and Corr.2, 4 and 5), chap. II, sect. A.

[2] Ibid., *2000, Supplement No. 3* (E/2000/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[3] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

00-72656 (E) 031100

Recalling that the World Conference recommended that more resources should be made available for the strengthening of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights under the programme of technical cooperation in the field of human rights of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,

Reaffirming that regional arrangements play a fundamental role in promoting and protecting human rights, and should reinforce universal human rights standards, as contained in international human rights instruments, and their protection,

Noting the progress achieved so far in the promotion and protection of human rights at the regional level under the auspices of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the regional intergovernmental organizations,

Considering that cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements in the field of human rights continues to be both substantive and supportive and that possibilities exist for increased cooperation,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights;[4]

2. *Welcomes* the continuing cooperation and assistance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the further strengthening of the existing regional arrangements and regional machinery for the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular through technical cooperation which is aimed at national capacity-building, public information and education, with a view to exchanging information and experience in the field of human rights;

3. *Also welcomes*, in that respect, the close cooperation of the Office of the High Commissioner in the organization of regional and subregional training courses and workshops in the field of human rights, high-level governmental expert meetings and regional conferences of national human rights institutions, aimed at creating greater understanding in the regions of issues concerning the promotion and protection of human rights, improving procedures and examining the various systems for the promotion and protection of universally accepted human rights standards, and identifying obstacles to ratification of the principal international human rights treaties and strategies to overcome them;

4. *Recognizes* therefore, that progress in promoting and protecting the enjoyment of human rights depends primarily on efforts made at the national and local levels and that the regional approach should imply intensive cooperation and coordination with all partners involved;

5. *Stresses* the importance of the programme of technical cooperation in the field of human rights, renews its appeal to all Governments to consider making use of the possibilities offered by the United Nations, under this programme, of organizing information or training courses at the national level for government personnel on the application of international human rights standards and the experience of relevant international bodies, and notes with satisfaction, in that respect, the establishment of technical cooperation projects with Governments of all regions;

[4] A/55/279.

6. *Welcomes* the growing exchanges between the United Nations and the bodies created by the United Nations in accordance with the treaties dealing with human rights, on the one hand, and regional intergovernmental organizations, such as the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, on the other;

7. *Welcomes* the appointment by the High Commissioner of four human rights personalities to serve as regional advisors, who will play a significant role in the promotion of human rights and human rights advocacy through the design of strategies and development of partnerships for human rights, facilitate coordination of human rights technical cooperation in the region and assist regional cooperation at large, for example, among national institutions, parliamentary human rights bodies, bar associations and non-governmental organizations;

8. *Recalls* in this regard the positive experience of the regional presence in southern Africa, which will serve as guidance in the development of the regional approach of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights;

9. *Notes with interest* the programme for Africa of the Office of the High Commissioner and the objective of strengthening cooperation between the Office and the Organization of African Unity in order to review on a regular basis needs in the area of human rights in different subregions;

10. *Also notes with interest* the further developments in the implementation of the Framework for Regional Technical Cooperation for the Asia-Pacific Region which is enhancing technical cooperation in the promotion and protection of human rights in the region;

11. *Further notes with interest* the Quito Framework for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights as a basis for the regional strategy of the Office of the High Commissioner, aimed at strengthening national capacities for the promotion of human rights in Latin America and the Caribbean;

12. *Welcomes* the continued cooperation between the Office of the High Commissioner and regional organizations in Europe and Central Asia, in particular the development, as a priority, of a regional approach to preventing trafficking in persons;

13. *Invites* States in areas in which regional arrangements in the field of human rights do not yet exist to consider concluding agreements, with a view to establishing, within their respective regions, suitable regional machinery for the promotion and protection of human rights;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as foreseen in programme 19 (Human rights) of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, to continue to strengthen exchanges between the United Nations and regional intergovernmental organizations dealing with human rights and to make available adequate resources from within the regular budget of technical cooperation to the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner to promote regional arrangements;

15. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to continue to pay special attention to the most appropriate ways of assisting, at their request, countries of the various regions under the programme of technical cooperation and to make, where necessary, relevant recommendations;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the state of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights and to include therein the results of action taken in pursuance of the present resolution;

17. *Decides* to consider this question further at its fifty-seventh session.

United Nations A/C.3/55/L.55

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
2 November 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session

Third Committee

Agenda item 114 (b)

Human rights questions: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Argentina, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Senegal, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela and Viet Nam: draft resolution

Human rights and extreme poverty

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[2] and other human rights instruments adopted by the United Nations,

Considering the relevant provisions of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[3] and of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, adopted by the World Summit on 12 March 1995,[4] and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly entitled: "World Summit for Social Development and Beyond:

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[3] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[4] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. IU, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

00-72644 (E) 031100

Achieving Social Development for All in a Globalizing World", adopted at Geneva on 1 July 2000,[5]

Recalling its resolutions 47/196 of 22 December 1992, by which it declared 17 October International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, 48/183 of 21 December 1993, by which it proclaimed 1996 International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, 50/107 of 20 December 1995, by which it proclaimed the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), 51/97 of 12 December 1996 on human rights and extreme poverty, 52/193 of 18 December 1997, in which it emphasized the follow-up to the Decade, and 53/146 of 9 December 1998 on human rights and extreme poverty,

Recalling also its resolution 52/134 of 12 December 1997, in which it recognized that the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights was essential for the understanding, promotion and protection of all human rights,

Recalling further its resolution 54/232 of 22 December 1995 in which it expressed its deep concern that the number of people living in extreme poverty continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority and the most affected group,

Bearing in mind Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1992/11 of 21 February 1992,[6] 1993/13 of 26 February 1993,[7] 1994/12 of 25 February 1994,[8] 1995/16 of 24 February 1995,[9] 1996/10 of 11 April 1996,[10] 1997/11 of 3 April 1997,[11] 1998/25 of 17 April 1998,[12] 1999/26 of 26 April 1999,[13] and resolution 2000/12 of 17 April 2000,[14] as well as resolution 1996/23 of 29 August 1996 of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,[15]

Recalling its resolution 47/134 of 18 December 1992, in which it reaffirmed that extreme poverty and exclusion from society constituted a violation of human dignity and stressed the need for a complete and in-depth study of extreme poverty, based on the experience and the thoughts of the poorest people,

Recognizing that the eradication of extreme poverty is a major challenge within the process of globalization and requires coordinated and continued policies through decisive national action and international cooperation,

Reaffirming that the existence of widespread extreme poverty inhibits the full and effective enjoyment of human rights and might, in some situations, constitute a threat to the right to life, its immediate alleviation and eventual eradication must remain a high priority for the international community,

---

[5] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

[6] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1992, Supplement No. 2* (E/1992/22), chap. II, sect. A.

[7] Ibid., 1993, *Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/1993/23 and Corr.2, 4 and 5), chap. II, sect. A.

[8] Ibid., 1994, *Supplement No. 4* and corrigendum (E/1994/23 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

[9] Ibid., 1995, *Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

[10] Ibid., 1996, *Supplement No. 3* (E/1996/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[11] Ibid., 1997, *Supplement No. 3* (E/1997/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[12] Ibid., 1998, *Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[13] Ibid., 1999, *Supplement No. 3* (E/1999/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[14] Ibid., 2000, *Supplement No. 3* (E/2000/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[15] See E/CN.4/1997/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/41, chap. II, sect. A.

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[16]

Noting with satisfaction the interim and progress reports[17] submitted to the Commission on Human Rights by the independent expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty and the recommendations contained therein,

1. *Reaffirms* that extreme poverty and exclusion from society constitute a violation of human dignity and that urgent national and international action is therefore required to eliminate them;

2. *Reaffirms also* that it is essential for States to foster participation by the poorest people in the decision-making process in the societies in which they live, in the promotion of human rights and in efforts to combat extreme poverty and for people living in poverty and vulnerable groups to be empowered to organize themselves and to participate in all aspects of political, economic and social life, particularly the planning and implementation of policies that affect them, thus enabling them to become genuine partners in development;

3. *Emphasizes* that extreme poverty is a major issue to be addressed by Governments, civil society and the United Nations system, including international financial institutions, and, in this context, reaffirms that political commitment is a prerequisite for the eradication of poverty;

4. *Recognizes* that surmounting extreme poverty constitutes an essential means to the full enjoyment of political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights, and reaffirms the interrelationship among these goals;

5. *Reaffirms* that the existence of widespread absolute poverty inhibits the full and effective enjoyment of human rights and renders democracy and popular participation fragile;

6. *Reaffirms also* the commitments on development and poverty eradication contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[16]

7. *Invites* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, within the framework of the implementation of the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, to continue to give appropriate attention to the question of human rights and extreme poverty;

8. *Notes with appreciation* the specific actions taken by the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to mitigate the effects of extreme poverty on children and the efforts of the United Nations Development Programme to give priority to the search for some means of alleviating poverty within the framework of the relevant resolutions, and urges them to continue in this work;

9. *Calls upon* States, United Nations bodies, in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Development Programme, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to continue to give appropriate attention to the links between human rights and extreme poverty;

---

[16] Resolution 55/2.

[17] E/CN.4/1999/48 and E/CN.4/2000/52.

10. *Decides* to consider this question further at its fifty-seventh session under the sub-item entitled "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

United Nations A/C.3/55/L.56

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
2 November 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Third Committee
Agenda item 114 (b)
Human rights questions: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, China, Congo, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Iraq, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam: draft resolution

Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order

The General Assembly,

Noting the adoption by the Commission on Human Rights of its resolution 2000/62 of 26 April 2000,[1]

Reaffirming the commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, other instruments relating to human rights and international law,

Affirming that the enhancement of international cooperation for the promotion and protection of all human rights should continue to be carried out in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, particularly with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and the non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations,

Recalling the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the determination to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, and in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small,

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Supplement No. 3* (E/2000/23), chap. II, sect. A.

00-72638 (E) 031100

Reaffirming that everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[2] can be fully realized,

Also reaffirming the determination expressed in the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to establish conditions under which justice and respect for obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, to practise tolerance and good-neighbourliness, and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

Considering the major changes taking place on the international scene and the aspirations of all the peoples for an international order based on the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, peace, democracy, justice, equality, the rule of law, pluralism, development, better standards of living and solidarity,

Also considering that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set out therein, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

Reaffirming that democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and that democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives,

Emphasizing that democracy is not only a political concept but also has economic and social dimensions,

Recognizing that democracy, respect for all human rights, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society, and effective participation by civil society are an essential part of the necessary foundations for the realization of social- and people-centred sustainable development,

Underlining that it is imperative for the international community to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world's people, and that only through broad and sustained efforts, based upon common humanity in all its diversity, can globalization be made fully inclusive and equitable,

Stressing that efforts to make globalization fully inclusive and equitable must include policies and measures, at the global level, which correspond to the needs of developing countries and economies in transition and are formulated and implemented with their effective participation,

Resolved on the eve of a new century and millennium to take all measures within its power to secure a democratic and equitable international order,

---

[2] Resolution 217 A (III).

1. *Affirms* that every person and all peoples are entitled to a democratic and equitable international order;

2. *Also affirms* that a democratic and equitable international order fosters the full realization of all human rights for all;

3. *Further affirms* that a democratic and equitable international order requires, inter alia, the realization of the following:

(a) The right of all peoples to self-determination, by virtue of which they can freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development;

(b) The right of peoples to permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources;

(c) The right of every human person and all peoples to development;

(d) The right of all peoples to peace;

(e) The promotion of an international economic order based on equal participation in the decision-making process, interdependence, mutual interest, solidarity and cooperation among all States;

(f) Solidarity, by virtue of which global challenges must be managed in a way that distributes costs and burdens fairly in accordance with basic principles of equity and social justice, and ensuring that those who suffer or who benefit the least receive help from those who benefit the most;

(g) The promotion and consolidation of transparent, democratic, just and accountable international institutions in all areas of cooperation, in particular through the implementation of the principles of full and equal participation in their respective decision-making mechanisms;

(h) The entitlement of everyone to equal access to international public service for persons from all regions and countries, ensuring an equitable regional and gender-balanced representation;

(i) The promotion of a free, just, effective and balanced international information and communication order;

(j) The promotion of cultural cooperation, respecting and protecting the variety and diversity of cultures around the world;

(k) The entitlement of every person and all peoples to a healthy environment for everyone;

(l) The promotion of equitable access to benefits from the international distribution of wealth through enhanced international cooperation, in particular in economic, commercial and financial international relations;

(m) The entitlement of everyone to ownership of the common heritage of mankind;

4. *Stresses* the importance of preserving the rich and diverse nature of the international community of nations and peoples, as well as the respect of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious

backgrounds in the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights;

5. *Reaffirms* that while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

6. *Reaffirms* that all States should promote the establishment, maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security and, to that end, should do their utmost to achieve general and complete disarmament under effective international control, as well as to ensure that the resources released by effective disarmament measures are used for comprehensive development, in particular that of the developing countries;

7. *Recalls* the proclamation by the General Assembly of the determination to work urgently for the establishment of an international economic order based on equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest and cooperation among all States, irrespective of their economic and social systems, which shall correct inequalities and redress existing injustices, make it possible to eliminate the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries, and ensure steadily accelerating economic and social development and peace and justice for present and future generations;

8. *Stresses* the importance of international cooperation for the establishment of a new equilibrium and greater reciprocity in the international flow of information, in particular correcting the inequalities in the flow of information to and from developing countries;

9. *Reaffirms* that the international community should devise ways and means to remove current obstacles and meet challenges to the full realization of all human rights and to prevent the continuation of human rights violations resulting therefrom throughout the world;

10. *Urges* States to continue their efforts, through enhanced international cooperation, towards the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order;

11. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights, human rights treaty bodies, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights to pay due attention, within their respective mandates, to the present resolution and to make contributions for its implementation;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of Member States, United Nations organs, bodies and components, intergovernmental organizations, in particular the Bretton Woods institutions, and non-governmental organizations and to disseminate it on the widest possible basis;

13. *Decides* to continue consideration of the matter at its fifty-sixth session under the agenda item "Human rights questions".